

and the integrity of the coiner, that the issue of this private, unique mint, passed current without question throughout the State.

Morganton, the county seat, is the site of the great and handsomely built Western Asylum for the Insane; and the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb for the whites at Raleigh, having become in danger of being overcrowded with patients with the growth of population, the Legislature made provision for the erection of another institution at Morganton for the same class of unfortunates, to be known as "The North Carolina School for the Deaf and Dumb," which is now complete and in successful operation, with some two-hundred white deaf-mutes. Here also is a cotton factory and an extensive steam tannery, one of the largest and best equipped in the south. The population is 2,475, exclusive of the State institutions. The town has well graded streets which are being macadamized and the side walks paved with brick. A first class electric light system supplies light for streets and buildings. Morganton is much frequented as a summer resort, and has, besides its exceptionable climate and magnificent scenery, a cultured and hospitable people to charm the visitor. Glen Alpine has a population of 260.

There are in Burke county 245,484 acres of land, valued at \$778,593; and 500 town lots valued at \$233,165. The number of domestic animals is—horses, 1,276; mules, 1,492; cattle 5,277; hogs, 6,707; sheep, 2,161. Taxes—State \$3,030.68; pensions, \$655.96; schools, \$6,056.89; county, \$10,453.96. Population—white, 12,378; colored, 2,561; total, 14,939. This by last census—it is now over 16,500.

### CABARRUS.

Cabarrus county is not unlike the adjacent counties in general features, its topographical character being similar, and its agricultural products the same. It is drained by the upper waters of Rocky river, one of the chief affluents of the Yadkin, and abounds in water-courses, which traverse its territory from northwest to southeast, dividing it into narrow zones or flattish swells, the higher parts of which are comparatively level and are covered with a growth of oaks and pines and have a characteristic gray to yellow loam soil, while along the borders of the streams there are numerous and often extensive tracts of alluvial bottom lands, which, as well as large tracts of red clay and dark gravelly loam soils, are covered with heavy forests of oak, hickory, walnut, poplar, maple, etc. Along the eastern margin of the county lies a narrow belt of a few miles in breadth of slate hill-land, in the forests of which the short-leaf pine predominates. The soils of this tract are much less productive than the average of the county. Cotton enters as a large element into the agriculture of this county, and divides almost equally the attention of its population.

Cabarrus was early famed for the discovery within its territory of the largest mass of pure gold ever found in the eastern part of the United States. The search for that metal was continued for many years with great success by placer mining, and is still continued in that form and also by vein mining. During this year (1896) a nugget weighing more than twenty-three pounds was found.